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SCOPE COTTON

MEMORANDUM FOR: Comptroller, OSA

SUBJECT: OXCART Fiscal Year 1968/1969 Funding

REFERENCE: [REDACTED] NRO Comptroller Memorandum,
Same Subject, Dated 27 June 1968

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1. Review of the above NRO Comptroller memorandum indicates some of [REDACTED] comments, if literally accepted, could prove untenable to OSA.

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2. For example, our forecasts now show a significant reduction in [REDACTED] contractor strength materializing in August. [REDACTED] states, "it is difficult to understand why [REDACTED] from other than TAGBOARD should be [REDACTED] during August". In connection with this comment, we feel the following should not go unrecognized:

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a. Each OXCART system, sensor and its supporting pieces of equipment and spares is being cataloged and indexed into punched card format and the printed run-offs used as documentation to support accounting and audit requirements; in addition to satisfying basic identification and locator needs while the equipment is in storage. The end items, per se, are not numerous; however, the attendant "bits and pieces" run into several hundred line items per system. This also applies to hardware and equipment other than that employed in direct mission support of OXCART.

NRO review(s) completed.

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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b. The overall inventory by line item at [] has been between 45,000 and 50,000 line items. These run the gamut from small expensive titanium rivets (in shop and supply stocks) to heavy shop and industrial production equipment (lathes, drill presses, grinders, etc.).

25X1 c. We have collectively been most insistent that clean, auditable records be maintained across-the-board on all [] property transactions. In so doing, we have further recognized we may not necessarily hit a target date right on the nose. The point being that we do not intend to encourage shortcuts for the sake of budget expediency, such as implied by referenced memorandum.

25X1 d. As an aside, AFRDR-P [] in particular, may find it difficult to contend with the influx of supplies into that facility as soon as [] processing actions begin peaking out (15 July - 31 August and thereafter). This subject has been discussed with the above activities.

X1 e. In short, there are no better skills available for the SCOPE COTTON close-out than are now [] and []. We should resist any inroads or piecemeal accelerations via NRO memoranda that affect the course of functions now underway [].

25X1 3. In the same memorandum, we interpret [] statement, "at the moment, the OXCART aircraft have not been transferred to the USAF", as meaning, "to the USAF operational inventory", inasmuch as physical and accounting transfer of the articles has been made to the designated custodian; i.e., []

[]
Deputy for Materiel, OSA

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